

REMARKS

By this Amendment, Claims 1, 41 and 42 have been cancelled without prejudice to or disclaimer of the subject matter contained therein, and Claims 2, 3, 5, 6, 10, 18, 20-22, 24, 25, 27, 30, 31 and 40 have been amended, leaving Claims 2-40 pending in the application. The claim amendments do not (a) raise any new issue that would require further search and/or consideration, (b) raise the issue of new matter or (c) add any additional claims, and amendments place the application in better form for appeal. Accordingly, the amendments should be entered. Reconsideration of the final Official Action is respectfully requested.

1. Allowed Subject Matter

Applicants gratefully acknowledge the indication in the Official Action that Claim 8 has been allowed.

2. Rejection Under 35 U.S.C. § 102

Claims 1, 2, 5-7, 10-12, 17, 25, 26 and 40-42 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) over U.S. Patent No. 4,012,472 to Lindsey. The reasons for the rejection are stated on pages 2-5 of the Official Action.

Claims 1, 41 and 42 have been canceled. Claims 2, 5, 6, 10, 25 and 40 have been amended to depend from allowed Claim 8. Therefore, withdrawal of the rejection is respectfully requested.

3. Rejections Under 35 U.S.C. § 103

A. Claims 3, 4, 9, 15, 18, 19, 20-24, 27-33 and 37-39 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) over Lindsey. The reasons for the rejection are stated on pages 5-9 of the Official Action.

As a result of this amendment, Claims 3, 4, 9, 15, 18-19, 20-24, 27-33 and 37-39 depend from allowed Claim 8. Therefore, withdrawal of the rejection is respectfully requested.

B. Claims 13, 14, 19, 28, 30 and 34-36 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) over Lindsey in view of U.S. Patent No. 6,116,238 to Jackson et al. The reasons for the rejection are stated on page 10 of the Official Action.

Claims 13, 14, 19, 28, 30 and 34-36 depend from allowed Claim 8. Therefore, withdrawal of the rejection is respectfully requested.

4. Conclusion

For the foregoing reasons, withdrawal of the rejections and prompt allowance of the application are respectfully requested.

Respectfully submitted,

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